

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04170 052113Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EUR-12 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /136 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2186

UNCLAS CARACAS 4170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARIAL TASK FORCE ON U.S. FOOTWEAR.

REF: (A) STATE 043952 (B) CARACAS 1791 (C) STATE 099279

1. AS REQUESTED IN REF C, EMBASSY HAS RESEARCHED THE MARKET
POSSIBILITIES FOR SPECIALIZED FOOTWEAR WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A. FIRE DEPARTMENTS-ALL LEATHER BOOTS AND SHOES PURCHASED LOCALLY.
LOCAL MANUFACTURING HAS HIGH PRICES BUT QUALITY IS GOOD. IMPORT
DUTIES FOR FIRE BOOTS ARE 150 PERCENT AD. VAL.

B. POSTAL SERVICES-ALL PURCHASES MADE BY INDIVIDUALS WHO BUY STANDAR
D
SHOES LOCALLY.

C. PRIVATE GUARD SERVICES-SAME AS POSTAL SERVICES.

D. ARMED FORCES-ALL PURCHASES MADE LOCALLY. ONLY EXCEPTION DURING
1977 WAS THE DIRECT IMPORTATION OF SPECIAL PARATROOPER BOOTS FOR LESS
THAN \$20,000. ACCORDING TO LOGISTIC HEADQUARTERS, PRODUCT QUALITY
AND CAPACITY OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS COMPLETELY FULFILLS NEEDS.
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ABSOLUTELY NO MAJOR IMPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

2. TO OBTAIN ABOVE INFORMATION EMBASSY CONTACTED HEADS OF FIRE
DEPARTMENTS, POSTAL SERVICES, TWO PRIVATE GUARD COMPANIES AND
GENERAL MONTILLA, HEAD OF THE LOGISTIC DEPARTMENT OF THE JOINT
ARMED FORCES ADMINISTRATION.

3. AS INDICATED IN REF B, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BULK OF U.S. FOOTWEAR EXPORTS HAVE BEEN HANDLED THROUGH MARGARITA ISLAND FREE PORT AND THAT THEY ARE COMPOSED OF SPORTS AND NON-LEATHER FASHION SHOES. (MOST OF THE FEW LEATHER FASHION SHOES WHICH ARE IMPORTED INTO THE FREE PORT COME FROM FRANCE, ITALY AND SPAIN)

5. DECREE NO. 2621 OF MARCH 22, 1978 PROHIBITS THE IMPORTATION OF A NUMBER OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, INCLUDING LEATHER GOODS AND SHOES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF WORKS SHOES AND BALLET SLIPPERS, TOTAL IMPORTS FOR THESE TYPES OF FOOTWEAR ARE LESS THAN \$5,000. IN VIEW OF THIS MEASURE THE MARKET FOR U.S. LEATHER FOOTWEAR IS NOT ALMOST COMPLETELY CLOSED, EVEN FOR POSSIBLE MANUFACTURING JOINT VENTURES, AS THE LOCAL INDUSTRY IS PRESENTLY CAPABLE OF COVERING VENEZUELAN DEMAND.
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